

The Evening Times

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The Future of Cuba.

The Administration does not attempt to conceal its annoyance at the foolish action of the Constitutional Convention at Havana in attempting to amend the Platt terms to its own advantage, thereby changing their meaning so that, if allowed to stand as they have been construed at Havana, they would not in any sense represent what Congress intended they should when they were enacted. General Wood will be notified by telegraph today of the decision of the American Executive, and instructed to advise the convention of the same.

We are informed that the message will be couched in the suave language of diplomacy so as not to injure the feelings of the Cubans. That is well enough if the wording of the notice be not too obscure. In the interests of politeness, to let them know distinctly and finally what is expected of them and what they must do. There has been too much pleasant verbiage in the case already. Everybody here knows exactly what the American Government and people insist upon as the minimum of our demands. Much of the present unsatisfactory conditions is due to a past lack of frankness in dealing with it, on the part of the Administration. We have evaded plain expression, and intentions and thus have led the islanders to believe that they were to receive more than they would be prudent for this country to accord.

The time has come for plain speech. The Cubans should be told that if they want local independence and an autonomous government of their own, they must accept the Platt terms without question; and that otherwise Congress will undoubtedly impose severe terms, amounting possibly to annexation. Public sentiment regarding Cuba in the United States has changed rapidly in the last few years since the late adjournment of Congress. Some months ago there were many Americans who thought that we should observe the letter of the hysterical Teller resolution of April, 1898. Now, the public is educated to the conviction that to do so would be suicidal. In one way or another the American Republic must control Cuba in her international relations, her debt obligations, past or future, and guarantee the peace of the island.

Whatever was left of the Teller sentiment, we apprehend, disappeared with the announcement of the cunning and evasive action of the Constitutional Convention. We shall see in its place a strong feeling in favor of annexation. That, indeed, is the logic of the situation. It is becoming every day more apparent that the Cubans are as yet unfitted for intelligent self-government. That being admitted, it would seem to follow that our safest and cheapest course would be to take the country and govern it as an American territory, which at some future time might be given American Statehood. Such a solution would be the best for Cuba, and certainly the most advantageous for the United States.

Our South American Relations.

On more than one account it is to be regretted that the foreign policy of the McKinley Administration is continually diverted from its proper direction by considerations of trust interest and compliance with the demands of our great monopolies. Thus Mr. Gage has been allowed to inaugurate an entirely inexcusable tariff war against Russia for the sole benefit of the Sugar Trust, and the whole force of our Government has been exerted in Venezuela to back the claims of the Asphalt Trust against the apparent rights of a smaller American syndicate.

It is announced that the State Department has instructed our Charge d'Affaires at Caracas to notify the Government of Venezuela that every act of Minister Loomis is endorsed by his superiors in Washington. This will be regarded in every country of the civilized world as a declaration that American trusts are the peculiar wards of the nation, and that, to the extent of its diplomatic, military, and naval power, the Administration will support them in their foreign adventures, without regard to the merits of their pretensions.

There is not a doubt that the sympathy of the outside world, and of all thinking Americans not holders of shares in the Asphalt Trust, will be with Venezuela in this matter. That State all along has shown every desire to adjudicate the conflicting claims of the Trust and the Warren-Quinlan syndicate justly and equitably. Were Venezuela a strong instead of a weak nation, there would be no thought of interfering against or overriding the processes of her courts. But the Asphalt Trust is potent in Washington, and justice and equity are not considered in the premises. The fact that voluntary arbitration between the parties led to a decision against the Trust has had no effect in preventing practical notice to Venezuela that this Government, while willing that the High Federal Court should take cognizance of the case in dispute, would assume the right of review and revision in the event that the court's decision should happen to be adverse to the cause of the Trust.

We are intensely sorry to see such a manifestation of bad policy and diplomacy on the part of the Administration, especially at a time when the opportunity offers to bring all the American republics together in a general scheme of amity and international arbitration. Even so strong a friend of Europe and the trusts as Mr. Hay has shown himself, must recognize the desirability of a Pan-American understanding which

should minimize the chances of war between American States, and, by drawing them together in support of a hemispheric policy, also reduce the danger of foreign aggression on this side of the Atlantic.

As matters stand the question of the Pan American Congress called to convene in the City of Mexico next December hangs in the balance. There are differences affecting Chile, Peru, and Bolivia which have given friends of the movement some concern, but they could be composed through the exercise of intelligent and friendly diplomacy. The real difficulty will be that considering our attitude toward Venezuela, which cannot be justified upon any ground of righteousness or international law, all of our neighbors are entitled to regard us with distrust. What has been done at Caracas and what has been done at Mexico might be repeated at Rio Janeiro, or any other place in South America.

It is to the interest of this country to promote the peace of the hemisphere, and it is not the best way to accomplish that object to set the example of injustice and coercion. Let us hope that the Administration will mend its ways and cease seeking to bully a small neighbor State for the benefit of an American monopoly.

The President for Reciprocity.

In a speech delivered at a banquet in Montreal the other night, a distinguished French traveler, M. Siegfried, asserted that, when in Washington, President McKinley told him that he (the President) was no longer an ultra-protectionist. His exact words, as related by M. Siegfried, were:

"You evidently have the impression that I am an ultra-protectionist. I have been that, but I am not now. The law has progressed, and my ideas have modified in favor of reciprocity."

Assuming the correctness of M. Siegfried's report of President McKinley's language, it is not surprising, while it will be hailed with general satisfaction, that it would be carping criticism to say that reciprocity is the Republican device wherewith to plough with the Democratic heifer. That does not matter. As long as Mr. McKinley and his friends are willing to depart from the old Chinese wall to which they have been chained for a generation, and come out in open advocacy of a sane and comparatively scientific fiscal system, we are with them heart and soul, and willing to admit that their conversion, though perhaps miraculous is genuine.

Reciprocity, once tried on a general scale, inevitably will bring the country around to a tariff for revenue only, which is as near free trade as most Democrats would care to go under present conditions. In itself reciprocity would remove the friction of commerce which now threatens to isolate the United States and make it the boggy man among nations. If Mr. McKinley is as sincere in his reciprocity as M. Siegfried's speech would lead us to believe, he has added a new ray to the halo of his popularity.

The "London Spectator," in a series of reviews of the Brown decisions today, congratulates this country upon its escape from the limitations and prohibitions of the Constitution, and argues that at some future time the United States might take Mexico, and "govern it as we India." Possibly the "Spectator" is right, but it is yet an open question whether the view of one judge by the name of Brown are to prevail against the universal, sober opinion of our constitutional lawyers, thinkers, and the four great jurists who sit on the high benches and dignity of the Supreme Court.

Yesterday the "Coloche Gazette" published a dispatch from Germany, which press agency denying that the anti-German feeling apparent in the press or among the people of this country, and asserting that all the "German papers" in the United States are "friendly to the United States." The "Gazette" informs us about correct. The "Herald" publishes a Paris edition, and its policy may be governed by that fact. Now that seems to be a rapprochement between Germany and France, the policy may be changed.

Mr. Choate, our Ambassador to King Edward's court, is reported to be traveling ports to two Filipino who applied to him for them, on the ground that they were not American citizens. This judgment seems harsh. What are the Filipinos, if not American, and what Government do we protect them from? The one to which we have endeavored to convince them they owe allegiance? Ambassador Choate, we think, did not show the fineness in this case which his admirers in the country would expect of him. Why did he not take a leaf from the book of the Administration he serves, and issue the passports to the Filipinos as American subjects.

One of the boys dismissed from West Point has kindly taken the New York reporters into his confidence, and informed them that the elected cadets consider their rights to the barracks as sacred property. "There will be a good deal more of the same sort of harshness unless the young gentlemen who are being educated for the army at the public expense can be taught to protect them the hard way, a little men, and not like the brutes the evidence before the Congressional Investigating Committee showed many of them to be."

England Would Be Neutral.

In the event of a war between Germany and the United States, we should not require the alliance of Great Britain; all we should ask would be the maintenance of a strict neutrality on the part of the latter nation. It would manifestly be for England's interest to observe neutrality. If she co-operated with Germany, she would be exposed to the risk of starvation, for we should see to it that no article of food stuffs reached them from this side of the Atlantic easier than for us to confiscate the breadstuffs of the northern provinces of the Dominion, and, of course, the food of the United States would be closed against the British army. We should assume, that in case of a war between Germany and the United States, Great Britain would be neutral.

Not the Way to Make Friends.

(From the New York Times.)
 While we seek, and at present very successfully, the extension of our trade in the markets of the world, we must not forget that we have others from our own markets. We strive with all our energy and ingenuity to sell as much of our goods as we can, but we do not heavily the foreigners who wish to sell to us in return. Europeans must pay a heavy fine if they seek to sell their goods to us. Distinctly this is not a policy to win friends.

Evidence of Mental Decay.

(From the Springfield Republican.)
 The theory that the German Emperor is going crazy will be strengthened by his orders that none of his speeches in public semi-public occasions shall be published verbatim; that representatives of the press shall always be excluded from his private audiences; that only such "versions" of his remarks, well condensed and pruned, shall be printed as may be given to the trusty official organ, the "Reichs anzeiger."

Shakespeare Coming Into His Own.

(From the Boston Transcript.)
 Some lions, it has been found, have musical ears; therefore Bottom the weaver was not at all wrong in his opinion that the lion he was to play the part of a lion he would roar as gently as any sucking dove. Wonderful man, that Shakespeare!

A CONGRESS OF PUBLISHERS.

Special Orders for Newly Promoted Cavalry Officers.

Secretary Root today issued a special order assigning newly promoted cavalry officers to new regiments. The order assigns these officers to the following commands:

Mullin Craig, Sixth Cavalry; Guy V. Henry, Jr., Eleventh Cavalry; Wallace B. Seales, Eleventh Cavalry; Conrad S. Babcock, Fifteenth Cavalry; Percy W. Babcock, Twelfth Cavalry; Rush S. Wells, Eleventh Cavalry; George C. Waller, Twelfth Cavalry; Ward B. Pershing, Fourth Cavalry; Robert R. Wallach, Third Cavalry; George Williams, Fourth Cavalry; Charles S. Haight, Fourth Cavalry; William D. Forsyth, Fifteenth Cavalry; John J. Boniface, Fourteenth Cavalry; Warren Dean, Fifteenth Cavalry; Fitzhugh Lee, Jr., Twelfth Cavalry; James F. McKinley, Eleventh Cavalry; Hubert L. Wadsworth, Fifteenth Cavalry; Patrick W. Guiney, Sixth Cavalry; Hugh A. Roberts, Twelfth Cavalry; Leon B. Kromer, Eleventh Cavalry; Charles A. Romeyn, Thirteenth Cavalry; Evan H. Humphreys, Eleventh Cavalry; George C. Waller, Twelfth Cavalry; Charles C. Farmer, Jr., Fourteenth Cavalry; Stuart Heintzelman, Sixth Cavalry; John D. Long, Twelfth Cavalry; Grayson V. Heldt, Fourteenth Cavalry; James C. Rhea, Seventh Cavalry; Albert C. Foy, First Cavalry; Llewellyn W. Oliver, Eighth Cavalry; Reginald E. McNally, Third Cavalry; Albert N. McClure, Fifth Cavalry; Ben H. Morry, Twelfth Cavalry; Harry D. Dwyer, Fifteenth Cavalry; Hamilton F. Foley, Fifth Cavalry; Edwin A. Hickman, First Cavalry; Warren W. Whiteside, Tenth Cavalry; Samuel A. Purviance, Fifteenth Cavalry; Frederick C. Johnson, Second Cavalry; George C. Waller, Twelfth Cavalry; D. T. Hild, First Cavalry; Gay S. Norvell, Eighth Cavalry; John McCintock, Fifth Cavalry; Paul T. Hayne, Jr., Thirteenth Cavalry; Fred E. Buchan, Third Cavalry; Charles C. Waller, Twelfth Cavalry; S. Fitch, First Cavalry; E. Holland Robbott, Ninth Cavalry; Leslie A. I. Chapman, First Cavalry; Aubrey Lippincott, Fourteenth Cavalry; Charles C. Waller, Twelfth Cavalry; Charles E. McCullough, Fifteenth Cavalry; William H. Winters, Thirteenth Cavalry; Douglas McCaskey, Fourth Cavalry; Samuel B. Pearson, Thirteenth Cavalry; Charles C. Waller, Twelfth Cavalry; Albert A. King, Eighth Cavalry; Dorsey Cullen, Third Cavalry; Louis R. Ball, Ninth Cavalry; William L. Karnes, Sixth Cavalry; Ashton H. Potter, Twelfth Cavalry; Ferdinand W. Fonda, Tenth Cavalry; John A. Baer, Sixth Cavalry; Frank G. Whitcomb, Twelfth Cavalry; Charles F. Martin, Fifth Cavalry; Robert E. Morris, Third Cavalry; Willis S. Grant, Third Cavalry; William H. Winters, Thirteenth Cavalry; Morton C. Mamma, Second Cavalry; Frank P. Ames, Eleventh Cavalry; Julian C. Waller, Twelfth Cavalry; John D. Long, Twelfth Cavalry; Samuel R. Gleaves, First Cavalry; Lewis S. Morey, Twelfth Cavalry; Robert E. Jackson, Third Cavalry; Varney D. Dixon, Fifth Cavalry; Verne L. Robinson, Twelfth Cavalry; W. H. Winters, Thirteenth Cavalry; George R. Comly, Third Cavalry; Charles C. Waller, Twelfth Cavalry; Fred W. Hershler, Fourteenth Cavalry; James Huston, Tenth Cavalry; Edward C. Waller, Twelfth Cavalry; Bruce Palmer, Tenth Cavalry; Philip W. Corbush, Ninth Cavalry.

JAPAN'S TRADE IN THE EAST.

The Empire Making Efforts to Become Economically Independent.

Simon W. Hanauer, Deputy Consul General at San Francisco, has written to the State Department concerning Japan's trade in the East, where, he says, Japanese influence is continually increasing. Mr. Hanauer says:

"The Japanese people, as well as the Government, are making energetic efforts to become economically independent of foreign aid by developing the resources of the country, creating transportation lines, establishing manufacturing, etc. Japan sends almost twice the amount of goods to the United States that she imports therefrom. France receives three times the amount of goods from Japan that she exports to that country. Japan is steadily diminishing, and their position there is becoming more and more difficult; on the other hand, Japanese merchants are creating transportation lines, establishing manufacturing, etc. Japan sends almost twice the amount of goods to the United States that she imports therefrom. France receives three times the amount of goods from Japan that she exports to that country. 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